

Caltrans fights to Keep Route 84 Open

Caltrans is initiating an emergency project to correct portions of Highway 84 near La Honda which has been faltering due to continuous landslides.

Caltrans and its crews plan one-way traffic through Highway 84 while drilling four-80 foot holes and placing three Slope Indicators and one Piezo via a CME 750 drill rig. Caltrans crews will also attempt to drill and set support piles below the roadway to stabilize the soil at the base of the road and level the roadway surface.

“The four 80 foot drilled holes are a part of the slide investigation to determine the depth of the slide,” said Grant Wilcox, Caltrans Senior Engineering Geologist, “the type of material (soil conditions/ geology type), and groundwater levels. The Slope Indicator (SI) is an instrument installed into the borings that allow us to determine the depth to failure plane. The Piezometer is installed in the boring to allow us to determine the groundwater level. We will also use the CME 750, an all terrain rig that drills the holes for us. Once we get this information our engineers/geologists can determine what we can do to repair the roadway.”

“Recent heavy rain from January till now have caused a landslide and/or slope failure on the westbound direction,” said Steven Rouse, Caltrans Senior Transportation Engineer, “The failure encroaches into the westbound lane for about a 100 foot distance and extends down slope approximately 250 feet.

The failure has caused the westbound lane of Route 84 to drop approximately 10 inches in one week and continues to move and sink with each storm. Over this past week, our Regional Maintenance Forces have placed over 30 tons of asphalt in attempts to keep the westbound lane open, but the slide continues to move. As a result, Caltrans initiated an emergency project to prevent the possible closure of Route 84.”

The emergency repairs will cost approximately \$750,000 and will attempt to level and stabilize the road until the area dries from the rain storms.

Caltrans began work to level pavement on March 15 and one-way traffic control will be in place as soon as the rain subsides.

For more information, contact Jack Gaines, Caltrans Public Information Officer at 510-316-2005